

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00040 070028Z
ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2046

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECERP, GJ, BB

SUBJECT: CERP 0002, RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF A) 75 STATE 113829; B) 74 A-7841; (C) 76 STATE 249135

(D) 75 BRIDGETOWN A-108

1. PART I -- NOT REQUIRED.

2. PART II -- SUBSEQUENT TO EMBASSY'S LAST CERP 0002 A SELF-AVOWED "MARXIST" GROUP HAS SURFACED IN BARBADOS CALLING ITSELF THE FRONT LIBERATION MOVEMENT (FRLIMO). BASED ON THE CONTENT OF ITS CLANDESTINE NEWSPAPER THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM) IN GRENADA WOULD HAVE TO BE DESCRIBED AS A MOSCOW/HAVANA (AS OPPOSED TO PRC ORIENTED) MARXIST PARTY. (NJM MEMBERS HOLD THREE OF THE SIX OPPOSITION SEATS IN THE GRENADA LEGISLATURE.) YOULOW UNITED LIBERATION MOVEMENT (YULIMO), A RADICAL MARXIST DISSIDENT GROUP IN ST. VINCENT, HAS SHARPLY INCREASED ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS. BOTH DOMINICA AND ST VINCENT HAVE "CUBAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIEITEIS" OF RECENT CREATION.

3. PART III-- CUBA HAS HAD A NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO BARBADOS WHO WAS RESIDENT IN OTTAWA. THE PRESENT CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA HAS NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE GOB AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER HE

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WILL BE ACCREDITED TO BARBADOS. GRENADA HAS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. TRADE BETWEEN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CUBA) AND ANY OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT EXCEPT FOR THE RECENT SUBSTANTIAL IMPORT OF SKODA AUTOMOBILES INTO BARBADOS. CUBANA PROVIDES REGULAR AIR SERVICE BETWEEN BARBADOS AND HAVANA WITH

STOPS IN JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, AND GUYANA.

4. PART IV A- FROM TIME TO TIME THERE ARE CULTURAL, SPORTING AND EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN CUBA AND BARBADOS BUT THESE ARE ON A SMALL SCALE. IN NOV 1976 A CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL, DR. OSWALDO CARDENAS, VISITED DOMINIA AND ST. KITTS. THE GUILD OF UNDERGRADUATES OF THE AVE HILL (BARBADOS) CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES HAS RECENTLY AFFILIATED ITSELF WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (IUS), A COMMUNIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION BASED IN PRAGUE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE GUILD OF UNDERGRADUATES HAS BEEN ON IUS-SPONSORED TRIPS TO MOSCOW, PRAGUE, AND GHANA AND THE VICE PRESIDENT RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN IUS SPONSORED TRIP TO PRAGUE. THE GUILD IS CONCLUDING PLANS WITH A CUBAN STUDENT GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "11TH WORLD FESTIVAL OF STUDENTS" IN CUBA IN THE SUMMER OF 1978. THE THEME OF THIS FESTIVAL IS TO BE "ANTI-IMPERIALISM, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP."

5. PART IV B - THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFIANT USE OR ATTEMPTED USE OF THE MEDIA FOR PROPAGANDA ENDS EXCEPT DURING THE AFERMATH OF THE OCTOBER 6 CUBANA AIRCRAFT CRASH.

6. AT THE TIME A RADICAL ACTIVIST LECURER AT THE BARBADOS CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (RALPH GONZALES) PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE IN THE ISLAND'S ONLY DAILY ATTACKING THE USG AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CUBANA SABOTAGE. ALTHOUGH THE GONZALES ARTICLE COULD HAVE

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BEEN SPONTANEOUS, HIS SUBSEQUENT SPEECH AT THE YULIMO CONCENTION IN ST VINCENT DEALT EXTENSIVELY WITH THE US (AND OTHER) MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN, INFORMATION THAT, IN THE DETAIL HE PROVIDED, A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL WOULD FIND EXTRMELY DIFFICULT TO COMPLIE ON HIS OWN. A STRONG POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT CONZALES IS BEING UTILIZED TO GENERATE AND PLACE CUBAN PROPAGANDA.

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